

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A database structure, embodied on at least one computer accessible medium, for managing information on regulated entities by a regulating entity, said database structure comprising:

a primary data level identifying multiple regulated entities, optionally associable with a geographic location; and

a secondary data level identifying subject items of the regulated entities identified at said primary level, where the subject items include objects and activities subject to regulatory requirements comprising multiple media.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A database structure as recited in claim 1, wherein said database structure further comprises at least one lower data level, below said secondary data level, to store detail information on imposition of regulatory requirements on the subject items via issuance of permits, monitoring operation of the subject items of the regulated entities to verify compliance with the regulatory requirements and issuance of enforcement orders to compel compliance with the regulated entities.

3. (CANCELED)

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A database structure as recited in claim 1, wherein the information in said primary data level identifies the regulated entities as one of
a fixed operation having a single geographic location associated therewith;
an occurrence having a single geographic location associated therewith;
a mobile operation that changes geographic location periodically; and
an organization responsible for transport of potentially hazardous materials, either in

vehicles or conduits, across a geographic area.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A database structure as recited in claim 1, wherein said database structure defines locations to store data related to work activity schedules, assignments and progress to date in a joint-usage database.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A database structure as recited in claim 1, wherein the information managed by using said database structure is accessed by a regulatory agency, and defines permits for operations of the regulated entities, criteria for determining compliance with the permits and actions taken to enforce the permits, for all program areas over which the regulatory agency has jurisdiction.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A database structure as recited in claim 1, wherein said secondary level comprises a record, and each record contains one of a single subject item and a list of subject item identifiers for related subject items.

8. (CANCELED)

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A database structure as recited in claim 1, wherein the information managed by using said database structure is accessed by a regulatory agency, and

wherein said database structure defines for at least some of the subject items a set of characteristics that determine the regulatory requirements typically applicable thereto under all multiple media areas for which the regulatory agency is responsible.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A database structure as recited in claim 9, wherein said database structure further comprises a requirements library specifying the regulatory requirements typically applicable to the subject items having a given set of characteristics, providing inspection checklist language corresponding to the requirements in fewer words, providing default descriptions of noncompliance for use when requirements are violated, and providing default corrective action requirements for use in enforcement orders addressing

violations of requirements.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A database structure as recited in claim 9, wherein said database structure defines locations to store data in a joint-usage database describing violations of the regulatory requirements applicable to at least one regulated subject item.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A database structure as recited in claim 11, wherein said database structure defines locations to store data in the joint-usage database describing enforcement orders for the at least one regulated subject item.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A database structure as recited in claim 1, further comprising a master regulatory profile of identification and descriptive data associated with each regulated entity identified at said primary level, not in data records associated only with permits.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A database structure as recited in claim 1, wherein said database structure defines locations to store data in a joint-usage database describing field inspections and results of the field inspections.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A database structure as recited in claim 1,
wherein the information managed by using said database structure is accessed by an environmental regulatory agency, and
wherein said database structure defines locations to store data describing pollutant releases in a joint-usage database.

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33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of managing information of a regulating entity, comprising:

storing multiple media, multiple regulated entity regulating data related to work activity schedules, assignments and progress for regulating work to date in a joint-usage database;

updating the data stored in the joint-usage database; and

displaying the data stored in the joint-usage database to all regulating entity personnel having security clearance, regardless of the assignments for which the personnel are responsible.

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as recited in claim 33, wherein said method is performed by a computer program stored as a single executable program.

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as recited in claim 33, wherein said storing stores in the joint-usage database at least one master record representing one subject item regulated in a multiple media areas with detailed descriptions for each of the program areas, and

wherein said displaying displays the detailed descriptions for the one subject item on a single screen.

36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as recited in claim 33, wherein the data

stored, updated and displayed includes data describing pollutant releases of a regulated entity.

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as recited in claim 33, wherein the data stored, updated and displayed includes data describing violations of applicable requirements.

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as recited in claim 33, wherein the data stored, updated and displayed includes data describing enforcement orders, and

wherein said method further comprises preparing multiple media enforcement orders for violations of requirements from different program areas and program-specific enforcement orders.

39. (CANCELED)

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41. (CANCELED)

42. (CANCELED)

43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of managing information on regulated entities by a regulating entity, comprising:

creating a joint-usage database for multiple media of the regulating entity and having a primary data level identifying the multiple regulated entities, optionally associateable with a geographic location, and a secondary data level identifying subject items of the regulated entities comprising the multiple media; and

performing, by the regulating entity, regulatory functions using the primary and secondary data levels of the joint usage database.

44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of managing information on multiple regulated entities by a regulating entity, comprising:

creating a joint-usage database for multiple media and having a primary data level identifying the regulated entities, optionally associative with a geographic location, and a secondary data level identifying subject items of the regulated entities; and generating, by the regulating entity, a permit from the joint-usage database.

45. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as recited in claim 44, wherein the permit comprises different information stored in discrete fields.

46. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of managing information on multiple regulated entities by a regulating entity, comprising:

creating a joint-usage database for multiple media and having a primary data level identifying the regulated entities, optionally associative with a geographic location, and a secondary data level identifying subject items of the regulated entities; and

generating, by the regulating entity, a regulatory inspection checklist from the joint-usage database.

47. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of managing information on regulated entities by a regulating entity, comprising:

maintaining a joint-usage database for multiple media and having a primary data level identifying the regulated entities, a secondary data level identifying subject items of the regulated entities and typical permit requirements for each of the subject items, the permit requirements for all subject items including permit requirements in a plurality of multiple media areas; and

displaying, by the regulating entity, the typical permit requirements for all of the subject items of a selected regulated entity.

48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as recited in claim 47, further comprising selecting permit data from among the typical permit requirements in response to user input.

49. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of managing information on regulated entities by a regulating entity, comprising:

maintaining a joint-usage database for multiple media and having a primary data level identifying the regulated entities, a secondary data level identifying subject items of the regulated entities and regulating entity inspector checklist language for typical permit requirements for each of the subject items, the inspection checklist language for all subject items including

inspector checklist language for the typical permit requirements in a plurality of program areas; and

displaying, by the regulating entity, the inspector checklist language for all of the subject items of a selected regulated entity.

50. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as recited in claim 49, further comprising selecting from among the checklist language in response to user input.

51. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of managing information on regulated entities by a regulating entity, comprising:

creating a joint-usage database for multiple media of the regulating entity and having a primary data level identifying the multiple regulated entities and a secondary data level identifying subject items of the regulated entities comprising the multiple media; and

performing, by the regulating entity, regulatory functions using the primary and secondary data levels of the joint usage database.

52. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of managing information on multiple regulated entities by a regulating entity, comprising:

creating a joint-usage database having a primary data level identifying the regulated entities, and a secondary data level identifying activities of the regulated entities; and

generating, by the regulating entity, an authorization from the joint-usage database.

53. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as recited in claim 52, wherein the authorization comprises a license.

54. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as recited in claim 52, wherein the authorization comprises an approval.

55. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as recited in claim 52, wherein the authorization comprises an approval letter.

56. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of managing information on multiple regulated entities by a regulating entity, comprising:

creating a joint-usage database having a primary data level identifying the regulated

entities, and a secondary data level identifying activities of the regulated entities; and generating, by the regulating entity, authorization to exercise power from the joint-usage database.

57. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of managing information on multiple regulated entities by a regulating entity, comprising:

creating a joint-usage database for areas of regulation of the regulating entity having a primary data level identifying the regulated entities, and a secondary data level identifying activities of the regulated entities; and

generating, by the regulating entity, authorization to exercise power from the joint-usage database.

58. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of managing information on multiple regulated entities by a regulating entity, comprising:

creating a joint-usage database having a primary data level identifying the regulated entities, and a secondary data level identifying activities of the regulated entities; and

generating, by the regulating entity, an enforcement action from the joint-usage database.

59. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for regulation of regulated entities, comprising:

maintaining information on the regulated entities, including a joint-usage database with the regulated entities at a primary data level and activities of the regulated entities at a secondary data level;

generating an authorization to exercise powers for at least one of the activities of each of the regulated entities by accessing the joint-usage database;

obtaining operational data from monitoring operation of the activities;

storing the operational data in the joint-usage database; and enforcing each authorization based on the information stored in the joint-usage database.

60. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A system for regulation of regulated entities, comprising:

a memory unit storing information on the regulated entities, including a joint-usage database storing regulated entity identifiers at a primary data level, activities of the regulated

entities at a secondary data level and operational data of the activities at a lower level below the secondary level;

a processor, coupled to said memory unit, generating an authorization to exercise powers for at least one of the activities of each of the regulated entities by accessing the joint-usage database in said memory unit;

an input unit, coupled to said processor and said memory unit inputting the operational data obtained from monitoring operation of the activities; and

an output unit, coupled to said processor, outputting the authorization.

61. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method comprising:

providing a database comprising data from a plurality of program areas in which entities are regulated;

adding permit data to the database, the permit data relating to permits allowing the regulated entities to operate in the program areas;

adding operational performance data to the database, the operational performance data relating to operational performance of the regulated entities in the program areas; and

accessing the database, having the added permit data and the added operational performance data, to enforce a respective permit.

62. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method comprising:

providing a database comprising data from a plurality of program areas in which entities are regulated;

adding permit data to the database, the permit data relating to a permit allowing a respective regulated entity to operate in a respective program area;

adding operational performance data to the database, the operational performance data relating to operational performance of said respective regulated entity in said respective program area; and

accessing the database, having the added permit data and the added operational performance data, to enforce the permit.

63. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method comprising:

providing a database comprising data from a plurality of program areas in which entities are regulated, the database having unique identifiers for the regulated entities, respectively;

adding permit data to the database, the permit data relating to permits allowing the

regulated entities to operate in the program areas;

adding operational performance data to the database, the operational performance data relating to operational performance of the regulated entities in the program areas; and

accessing the database, having the added permit data and the added operational performance data, via the unique identifier for a respective regulated identity, to enforce a permit allowing the respective regulated identity to operate in a respective program area.

64. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as in claim 63, further comprising:

adding compliance data to the database, the compliance data relating to compliance of the regulated entities, wherein said accessing accesses the database, having the added permit data, the added operational performance data, and the added compliance data, to enforce said permit allowing the respective regulated identity to operating the respective program area.

65. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method comprising:

providing a database comprising data from a plurality of program areas in which entities are regulated, the database having unique identifiers for the regulated entities, respectively;

adding permit data to the database, the permit data relating to a permit allowing a respective regulated entity to operate in a respective program area;

adding operational performance data to the database, the operational performance data relating to operational performance of said respective regulated entity in said respective program area; and

accessing the database, having the added permit data and the added operational performance data, via the unique identifier for said respective regulated identity, to enforce the permit.

66. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as in claim 65, further comprising:

adding compliance data to the database, the compliance data relating to compliance of said respective regulated entity, wherein said accessing accesses the database, having the added permit data, the added operational performance data, and the added compliance data, to enforce the permit.

67. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method comprising:

providing a database comprising data from a plurality of program areas in which entities are regulated, a primary data level identifying the regulated entities and a data level below the

primary data level identifying subject items of the regulated entities;

adding permit data to the database by referencing at least one of the subject items, the permit data relating to permits allowing the regulated entities to operate in the program areas;

adding self-monitoring and inspection data to the database with reference to the subject items, the self-monitoring and inspection data relating to self-monitoring and inspection of the regulated entities in the program areas; and

accessing the database, having the added permit data and the added self-monitoring and inspection data, to enforce a respective permit.

68. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method comprising:

providing a database comprising data from a plurality of program areas in which entities are regulated, a primary data level identifying the regulated entities and a data level below the primary data level identifying subject items of the regulated entities;

adding, to the database, permit data relating to a permit allowing a respective regulated entity to operate in a respective program area, the permit data added to the database by referencing a subject item of said respective regulated entity;

adding, to the database, self-monitoring and inspection data of said respective regulated entity, the self-monitoring and inspection data being added to the database by referencing said subject item of said respective regulated entity; and

accessing the database, having the added permit data and the added self-monitoring and inspection data, to enforce the permit.

69. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A database structure, embodied on at least one computer accessible medium, to store data from a plurality of program areas in which entities are regulated, the database structure comprising:

a primary level identifying the regulated entities; and

a data level below the primary data level identifying subject items of the regulated entities, the subject items including objects and activities subject to regulatory requirements.

70. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method comprising:

providing a database comprising data from a plurality of program areas in which entities are regulated, a primary data level identifying the regulated entities and a data level below the primary data level identifying subject items of the regulated entities; and

performing, by a respective regulated entity, regulatory functions using the primary data

level and the data level below the primary data level via accessing the database.

71. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method comprising:

providing a database comprising data from a plurality of program areas in which entities are regulated, a primary data level identifying the regulated entities and a data level below the primary data level identifying subject items of the regulated entities; and

generating, by a respective regulated entity, a regulatory inspection checklist using the primary data level and the data level below the primary data level via accessing the database.

72. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method comprising:

providing a database comprising data from a plurality of program areas in which entities are regulated, a primary data level identifying the regulated entities and a data level below the primary data level identifying subject items of the regulated entities; and

generating, by a respective regulated entity, an enforcement action using the primary data level and the data level below the primary data level via accessing the database.

73. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A system for managing regulatory programming information as applied to a plurality of regulated entities, comprising:

a user interface inputting operational data for selected subject items of a selected regulated entity for storage as regulatory information where at least one subject item of at least one regulated entity relates to a plurality of regulatory program areas; and

a centralized database storing the operational data as the regulatory information on a plurality of subject items for a plurality of regulated entities where the regulatory information stored in the centralized database is accessible to a plurality of departments within a regulatory agency that are responsible for different regulatory program areas.

74. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 73, wherein the centralized database further comprises a requirements library that defines standard requirements for each subject item.

75. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 73, wherein the regulatory information stored in the centralized database includes permit requirements for a subject item of a regulated entity.

76. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 75, wherein the permit requirements stored in the centralized database cover a plurality of regulatory program areas for a subject item of a regulated entity and the centralized database generates multi-program permits output via the user interface.

77. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 73, wherein the regulatory information stored in the centralized database includes inspection checklist information for a subject item of a regulated entity.

78. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 77, wherein the inspection checklist information stored in the centralized database covers a plurality of regulatory program areas for a subject item of a regulated entity and the centralized database generates multi-program inspection checklists output via the user interface.

79. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 73, wherein the regulatory information stored in the centralized database includes reports provided from regulated entities to departments of the regulatory agency, and wherein the reports are entered into the database via the user interface.

80. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 73, wherein the regulatory information stored in the centralized database includes reports provided from departments of the regulatory agency to regulated entities.

81. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 73, wherein the regulatory information stored in the centralized database includes violations listings for regulated entities.

82. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An integrated system for management of regulatory programming information as applied to a plurality of regulated entities, comprising:

a centralized database storing regulatory information on a plurality of subject items for a plurality of regulated entities where at least one subject item of at least one regulated entity relates to a plurality of different regulatory program areas;

a user interface inputting operational data for selected subject items of a selected regulated entity for storage in the centralized database as regulatory information; and

a processor generating multi-program regulatory permits based upon the operational

data entered into the database for a respective regulated entity.

83. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 82, wherein the processor additionally generates multi-program inspection checklists based upon the operational data entered into the database for a respective regulated entity.

84. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system of claim 82, wherein the processor additionally generates multi-program enforcement orders based upon the operational data entered into the database for a respective regulated entity.

85. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for regulating a regulated entity, comprising:

identifying a plurality of subject items associated with the regulated entity where at least one subject item relates to a plurality of regulatory programs;

storing regulatory information associated with each of the identified subject items in a centralized database; and

monitoring the regulatory information associated with a selected subject item in the database to track compliance of the regulated entity.

86. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 85, further comprising the step of generating permits relating to each regulatory program associated with the selected subject item.

87. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of managing information on a plurality of regulated entities, comprising:

creating a joint-usage database identifying subject items of a plurality of regulated entities;

adding permit data to the joint-usage database by referencing at least one of the subject items for one of the regulated entities for generating a permit for at least one of the subject items; and

adding operational performance data to the joint-usage database with reference to the at least one of the subject items for the one of the regulated entities, the operational performance data obtained from monitoring reports of operation of the at least one of the subject items.

88. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A system for regulation of regulated entities, comprising:

a memory unit to store information on the regulated entities, including a joint-usage database storing regulated entity identifiers and subject items and operational data of the regulated entities;

a processor coupled to the memory unit to generate a permit for at least one of the subject items of at least one of the regulated entities by accessing the joint-usage database in the memory unit;

an input unit coupled to the processor and the memory unit, to input the operational data obtained from monitoring operation of the subject items; and

an output unit, coupled to the processor, to output the permit.

89. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A system for managing regulatory programming information as applied to a plurality of regulated entities, comprising:

a user interface inputting operational data of subject items of a selected regulated entity for storage as regulatory information with at least one subject item of at least one regulated entity relating to a plurality of regulatory program areas;

a centralized database system storing the operational data as the regulatory information on a plurality of subject items for a plurality of regulated entities; and

an access system allowing access to the regulatory information stored in the centralized database by departments within a regulatory agency responsible for different regulatory program areas.

90. (NEW) A database management system for use by a regulatory agency regulating multiple subject items, comprising:

a primary database identifying multiple regulated entities regulated by the regulatory agency; and

a secondary data level identifying subject items regulated by the regulatory agency, where the subject items are applicably linked to the multiple regulated entities for use by the multiple regulated entities.